

HOUSE BILL 858

By McDaniel

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3;
Title 4, Chapter 11 and Title 67, to create the
“Tennessee Sesquicentennial of the American
Civil War Commission and Fund”.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The Tennessee Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission (the commission) is established in the legislative branch of state government. The purpose of the commission is to prepare for and commemorate the sesquicentennial of Tennessee’s participation in the American Civil War.

SECTION 2. The commission shall have a total membership of thirteen (13) members that shall consist of ten (10) legislative members, two (2) nonlegislative citizen members, and one (1) ex officio member. Members shall be appointed as follows: six (6) members of the house of representatives, including the speaker of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives in accordance with the principles of proportional representation as to race, gender, and geographic location; four (4) members of the senate, including the speaker of the senate, to be appointed by the speaker of the senate; and two (2) nonlegislative citizen members at large, one (1) to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one (1) to be appointed by the speaker of the senate. The state historian, two (2) members of the Tennessee historical commission selected by the governor, and the governor or the governor’s designee shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the commission shall be citizens of the state of Tennessee. Nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the state of Tennessee for the purpose of attending meetings.

SECTION 3. Legislative members and the ex officio members of the commission shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. Nonlegislative citizen members shall serve a

term of four (4) years. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. All members may be reappointed.

SECTION 4. The commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the general assembly. The commission may name five (5) of its members to constitute an executive committee, of whom one (1) shall be the State Historian, which shall act for the commission pursuant to its direction.

SECTION 5. The Tennessee wars commission may appoint and establish an advisory council composed of nonlegislative citizens at large who have knowledge of American Civil War history and interest in its sesquicentennial celebration, to assist the commission in its work.

SECTION 6. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the commission shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever a majority of the members so request.

SECTION 7. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War;
- (2) Encourage interdisciplinary examination of the American Civil War;
- (3) Facilitate balanced activities related to the American Civil War throughout Tennessee;;
- (4) Encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout Tennessee to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Civil War;
- (5) Provide technical assistance to localities and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War;

(6) Develop programs and facilities to ensure that the sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War results in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit; and

(7) Encourage the development and conduct of programs designed to involve all citizens in activities that commemorate the American Civil War.

SECTION 8. This act and the omission created herein shall expire on July 1, 2015.

SECTION 9. For the purpose of appointing members of the commission, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect on July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.